

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES—PROPOSITION  
TO AMEND.

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MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*Resolutions of the legislature of Kentucky, applying for the call of a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States.*

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FEBRUARY 6, 1861.—Referred to the select committee on the special message of the President, and ordered to be printed.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives:*

I have received from the governor of Kentucky certain resolutions adopted by the general assembly of that Commonwealth, containing an application to Congress for the call of a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States, with a request that I should immediately place the same before that body. It affords me great satisfaction to perform this duty; and I feel quite confident that Congress will bestow upon these resolutions the careful consideration to which they are eminently entitled, on account of the distinguished and patriotic source from which they proceed, as well as the great importance of the subject which they involve.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON, February 5, 1861.

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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY,  
*Executive Department, Frankfort, January 28, 1861.*

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to communicate herewith to your excellency the joint resolutions of the general assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, "recommending a call for a convention of

the United States," with the request that you lay the same before Congress.

Your obedient servant,

B. MAGOFFIN.

His Excellency JAMES BUCHANAN,  
*President of the United States.*

RESOLUTIONS recommending a call for a convention of the United States.

Whereas the people of some of the States feel themselves deeply aggrieved by the policy and measures which have been adopted by the people of some of the other States; and whereas an amendment of the Constitution of the United States is deemed indispensably necessary to secure them against similar grievances in the future: Therefore—

*Resolved by the general assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky,* That application to Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States, pursuant to the 5th article thereof, be, and the same is hereby, now made by this general assembly of Kentucky; and we hereby invite our sister States to unite with us, without delay, in similar application to Congress.

*Resolved,* That the governor of this State forthwith communicate the foregoing resolution to the President of the United States, with the request that he immediately place the same before Congress and the executives of the several States, with a request that they lay them before their respective legislatures.

*Resolved,* If the convention be called in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing resolutions, the legislature of the Commonwealth of Kentucky suggest for the consideration of that convention, as a basis for settling existing difficulties, the adoption, by way of amendments to the Constitution, of the resolutions offered in the Senate of the United States by the Hon. John J. Crittenden.

DAVID MERIWETHER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

THOMAS P. PORTER,  
*Speaker of the Senate.*

Approved January 25, 1861.

B. MAGOFFIN.

By the governor:

THOMAS B. MONROE, Jr.,  
*Secretary of State.*